

EXAMINERS AMENDMENT

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the matrix meter[.]. the backlight compensation means further comprising:

mbp
means for separating the plurality of ^{points} ~~pl~~ts in a scene into a subject group and a background group:

brightness evaluation means for selectively asserting the flash control signal based on brightness information of a point in the subject group and a point in the background group; and

distance evaluation means for selectively asserting the flash control signal based on distance information of a point in the subject group and a point in the background group.

Claim 20 (cancelled)

Docket No.: 100200819-1

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